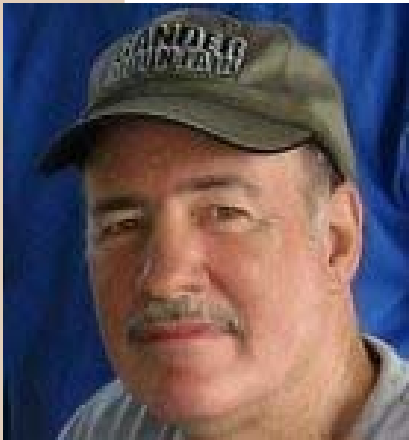


Spark Gap

Volume 27, Issue 2, February 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Six Years*

February Update from K9DY



From The President:

We may still be in the dead of winter, but it is never too early to think about being prepared for the upcoming spring storm season. The National Weather Service has scheduled Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m. for

our annual NWS spotter training session at the Franklin EOC. Everyone should to attend this training at least every couple of years to stay familiar with the information, as well as current procedures and criteria that the NWS specifies. This is in addition to the all day weather symposium that is being held on March 13 in Greenwood, which is more in depth for those wishing to delve deeper into expanded weather phenomena.

Weather in Indiana is always unpredictable, so all amateurs should be prepared at all times to respond with vital communications should the need arise. We are very fortunate to have our club repeater located where it has a good coverage area, and vitally important, we are provided emergency backup power at the repeater site. Most of us have 2 meter hand held radios, but do you have backup batteries always charged, or conventional battery packs if needed? I would encourage equipping your base station with emergency power as well, either by generator, or a storage battery that is kept fully charged with a trickle charger. A deep cycle 12 volt battery will supply a low power VHF/UHF FM transceiver for a long time, as

well as having the capability to provide adequate power for an HF 50-100 watt transceiver. Power lines can be damaged by many events, whether it be a high wind, tornado, ice storm, or even an auto crash. Events such as a winter ice storm can leave areas without power for days or even weeks. We should all be prepared for this eventuality.

Following this same line of thought, we should also stay prepared for these or other unforeseen events by having the normal “survival” supplies stockpiled for family use in our homes. A several day water and food supply should be kept in a safe predetermined shelter area in case of a storm or other disaster. It would also be beneficial to have a radio in place, or at least have a good outside, or attic antenna hook up available for a hand held while taking shelter. It is also a good idea to have a “go kit” in case you have to leave your home on short notice. This should include basic radio gear, plus personal items and important documents. Tips or what to have on hand for an emergency, and “go kit” ideas are available from many sources. We can’t depend on things always happening to “the other guy”, so it pays to be prepared for the unexpected.

Steve K9DY, President

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Officers

President:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Robert Jones,
KC9NJM

Treasurer:
Jacki Frederick,
KI6QOG

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

**Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH**

Spark Gap

WISH TV Randy Ollis

This winter in Indiana has been a tough one. Following nearly record breaking snow, ice and gale force winds comes the comforting thought of spring flowers and warmer temperatures. WISH TV meteorologist Randy Ollis has been following the weather cycle and will bring us his unique outlook on the approaching Spring tornado season.

Park your shovel and join us Saturday February 20th for a look at tornadoes past and future with special guest Randy Ollis.

Boy Scout Lock-in

For the last couple of years, MARC has participated in the annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Lock-in at the Greenwood High School in Greenwood, Indiana. In the past the actual merit radio badge training was conducted by Brian Murrey KB9BVN and Marc Snell KC9CCM. Both hams have other engagements that evening and will not be able to conduct the training. Anyone wishing to take over the training should contact Brian as soon as possible. SKYWARN training will again be conducted by KC9GCH Linda Harshbarger.

The event takes place at the Greenwood High School on Friday, March 12, 2010 beginning at 6:00 PM and continuing until about midnight. Brian has all the materials for the training and can meet with parties to go over the entire process. We will have to let the boy scout organization know very soon so please contact Brian if you have an interest in pitching in. Prior boy scout involvement is a plus.

If MARC participates we will need hams standing by on the 146.835 repeater that night so that the boy scouts can make actual contacts.

Tech Committee Update

Finding your way to the monthly club meetings has become easier thanks to the efforts of Bryan Kilgore-KC9OAG. The WA9RDF digipeter is on the air from the EOC using a club radio, backup antenna and a reconfigured TNC. The APRS system was housed in Bargsville for several years until Mother Nature decided to put a stop to that. The radio and TNC have been on the shelf waiting for new life until Jack-W8ISH and Bryan got things rolling again.

The digipeter sends out a beacon with the WA9RDF club call sign, longitude and latitude every few minutes. If you have one of the newer digital radios you can locate the EOC and use the digipeter to send text messages around the world.

The Franklin location fills in a much-needed hole in the wide area network of digital repeaters. We will use this location until Jay activates the Franklin Link for the club repeater. Due to both systems being on 2-meters we may have to move the digipeter to avoid interference. Until then, happy texting, the amateur radio way. -w8ish

SKYWARN

The annual SKYWARN weather training session for Johnson County will be held on Monday, April 5th, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM. The training will be held in the EM Training room located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. We will take a count of interested individuals at the February meeting and pass the number on to the planners.

The weather training session is sponsored by the National Weather Service, Indianapolis office, and is open to the public.

The National Weather Service asks that anyone participating in SKYWARN activities take the refresher course at least once every three years.

Class Update

Will there be a Spring Technician level amateur radio class? If enough potential hams sign up, then we will schedule a class. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at PIO@midstatehams.org. Right now I have two students on the tentative list. Final decision will be made at the Feb. meeting

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. The class will not be held if there is a lack of students. Please check around and let anyone know who is interested. ■

Special Note

Carol Osborne KC9CFK is currently at Hickory Creek at Franklin. Her address is 580 Lemley Street, Franklin, IN 46131. She would appreciate getting cards and notes from friends.

Joe Rogers KF9LQ is needing assistance with the Supper Club. Contact Joe for more information. ■

February Meeting

It's that time again to support the club and the club repeater by paying yearly dues. Dues are still \$18/year. Please see Jacki Fredericks, KI6QOG, Treasurer, at the meeting and pay your dues. Thanks for your support! It's greatly appreciated.

When paying dues, please let Jacki know if you are a member of the ARRL. We continue our Special Services Club status with 50% or greater membership in the ARRL. An ARRL membership helps to support the hobby and allows us to purchase textbooks for a discount that is extended to the students.

If you have made changes to your AR equipment or have moved, please take this time to update your club membership information. Club forms and ARES/RACES forms are available at the meeting. ■

Hamfest/Event Info

The **Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at the Dugger Park Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Highway 54), in Dugger, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.775 (PL 136.5) repeater. For more information contact Kyle Shipman, KB9ZGN via e-mail at kb9zgn@sbcglobal.net.

The **Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA) Hamfest and Computer Expo** will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Terre Haute National Guard Armory, 3614 Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.685 (PL 151.4) repeater. For more information contact Nick Vinardi, N9WG via e-mail at n9wg@hotmail.com.

The **Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County Road 200 South, Columbus, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.790 (PL 100.0) repeater. For more information contact Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN via e-mail at carc_in@bcremc.net. ■

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions. ■

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

2010 Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY 2010

20 **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

MARCH 2010

6 **Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**

Dugger Park Community Building, South Hicum Street, Dugger, IN 47848

13 **2010 Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium**

Registration begins around Christmas 2009; Valle Vista Conference Center 755 East Main Street, Greenwood, IN 46143; Conference 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

13 **Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Hamfest and Computer Expo**

Terre Haute National Guard Armory; 3514 Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, IN

20 **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

27 **Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**

Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County road 200 South, Columbus, IN

APRIL 2010

5 **SKYWARN Training for Johnson County; 7:00 PM; Open to the Public**

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Contact Tug Sutton KC9OQY for more information

17 **MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558

Spark Gap

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.